

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
PROGRAM EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

November 18, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

IAC Offices

100 N. Senate Avenue, Room N505
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Earl Williams, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Earl Williams, Kelly Schreckengast, Jeff Kirk, Suzie Rentschler, Pam Hicks, Linda Levell

Members present via teleconference: Jeanne Mirro (ex-officio)

Members absent: Judy Hess, Linda Goad, Trevor Yager

IAC staff present: Michelle Anderson, Bobbie Garver, Susan Britsch, Dennis Hardin

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** PEC Committee Chair Earl Williams convened the meeting at 2:02 and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. **Consent Agenda.** Ms. Rentschler moved to adopt the consent agenda. Ms. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. **Cultural Districts Program Appeal From City of Muncie.** Mr. Williams reported that the independent panel which met on September 22, 2010, to review applications for the IAC Cultural District Program, voted not to approve any of the current applications. Among the applicants was the City of Muncie, which had applied for the second time. Muncie Mayor Sharon McShurley later submitted a written appeal of the decision (copy attached). IAC Deputy Director Michelle Anderson presented a handout (attached) which explains the grounds for appeal and the process for appeal. Briefly, in order to appeal, an applicant must demonstrate: 1) the panel or review team used incorrect review criteria; and/or 2) there was influence by an IAC staff person or IAC volunteer panelist having a conflict of interest; and/or 3) required information submitted by the applicant was withheld from consideration.

Mr. Williams began the discussion by speaking on behalf of the City of Muncie, which is his hometown. He recalled that Muncie had applied for the Cultural District status in 2009, and was not selected, but that the application for 2010 had addressed the shortcomings of the earlier application. He read into the record a written statement (attached) from Sherri Contos, who was the author of the 2010 application. Discussion followed with all committee members participating. Mr. Williams asked about possible conflict of interest on the part of panel members. IAC Community Development Manager Bobbie Garver explained that being from a particular hometown or other does

not constitute a conflict of interest. Ms. Hicks spoke about the many wonderful arts venues and opportunities in Muncie. Mr. Kirk remarked that nothing in the letter of appeal addressed any of the three criteria which could form the basis for appeal. Ms. Anderson remarked on the professionalism of the panel members, who were selected for their expertise in the field of city planning. Ms. Schreckengast remarked about the importance of sustaining the decision of the Cultural District panel, as well as the other volunteer panels who adjudicate IAC grants, in order to uphold their legitimacy.

Mr. Kirk moved to recommend to the full Commission that the decision of the Cultural Districts panel be upheld, and the appeal by City of Muncie be denied. Ms. Schreckengast seconded the motion. Mr. Williams asked for a roll call vote, which was as follows:

Ms. Rentschler	Aye
Ms. Levell	Aye
Ms. Schreckengast	Aye
Mr. Kirk	Aye
Ms. Hicks	Aye
Mr. Williams	Abstain

The motion passed.

4. Review and Ratification of 2011 Arts In Education Applications. IAC Community Development Manager and Education Coordinator Susan Britsch presented a handout (attached) showing the scores assigned by an independent panel to applications for Arts In Education grants. The committee discussed two possible cut-off points among the scores to determine which applications will be approved for funding, those points being a score of 85 or above, and a score of 80 or above. Out of 12 applications, 6 scored above 85 and 8 scored above 80. Ms. Rentschler moved to approve all applications which scored above 80. Ms. Levell seconded the motion. The motion passed. The slate of 8 applications will be recommended to the full Commission for approval at the next Quarterly Business Meeting on December 10.

5. Review and Ratification of 2011 Technical Assistance Program Applications. IAC Community Development Manager Bobbie Garver reported on the recent independent panel which scored applications for IAC's Technical Assistance Program grants. Ten applications were reviewed. Ms. Garver remarked that two applications (including 3 grants) which received the lowest scores could be approved pending further mentoring from IAC staff. Ms. Anderson related that the Region 10 Arts Partner, Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana, did not apply for a Technical Assistance Grant, although it was the IAC expectation that all Regional Partners would apply. She also mentioned that the Region 3 Arts Partner, Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, fell below the expected scoring threshold and will need to be monitored by IAC if they are to receive the grant. Ms. Hicks moved to recommend to the full Commission the approval of all 10 applications for the Technical Assistance Program, provided that the two lower-score applicants will be mentored by IAC staff to fulfill their obligations under the grant.

Ms. Schreckengast seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the recommendation will be brought to the full Commission at its meeting on December 10.

6. Old Business: Ratification of Cultural District Panel recommendations. Ms. Garver reported that there were four applications for the 2010 designation of Cultural District. An independent panel reviewed the applications on September 22, 2010. None of the applications scored sufficiently high to be approved for the designation. Ms. Schreckengast moved to recommend to the full Commission that the decision of the Cultural Districts panel be approved, and that no new Cultural Districts be designated for FY 2011. Ms. Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

7. New Business. Mr. Kirk requested that a broader discussion of conflicts of interest concerning the Commission and its independent panels be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Program Evaluation Committee, which will be on February 24, 2011.

8. Adjourn. Mr. Williams thanked everyone for their participation. Ms. Rentschler moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.